

REMARKS

This application was filed with sixteen claims. By Preliminary Amendment filed July 10, 2002, Claims 1-16 were cancelled and new Claims 1-27 were entered. Claims 1, 13-17, and 21 have been rejected. Claims 1, 13-17, and 21 have been canceled. Claims 2, 18, and 22 have been amended. Therefore, Claims 2-12, 18-10, and 22-27 are pending in the Application. Reconsideration of the application based on the remaining claims as amended and arguments submitted below is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification

The Abstract of the disclosure has been objected to because it was not included on a single sheet. Applicant has included in this Response a substitute Abstract with the text listed on a single sheet.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kajitani et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,187,420). Claims 13-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kajitani et al. in view of Guerin (U.S. Patent No. 5,237,254). In response, Applicant has cancelled Claims 1, 13-17, and 21. Claim 2 has been amended to include the limitations of original Claim 1. Claim 18 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of original Claims 13-17. Claim 22 has been amended to include the limitations of original Claim 21. Claim 2 was deemed allowable if amended to include the limitations of original Claim 1. Claim 18 was deemed allowable if amended to include the limitations of original

Claims 13-17. Claims 22-27 were deemed allowable if amended to include the limitations of original Claim 21. Therefore, Claims 2-12, 18-20, and 22-27 are in condition for allowance.

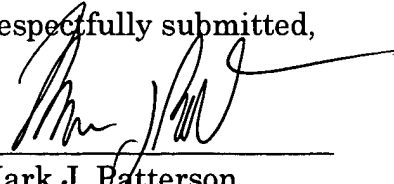
Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-12, 18-20, and 22-27 have been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but are noted to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 2 has been amended to include the limitations of original Claim 1. Claim 18 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of original Claims 13-17. Claim 22 has been amended to include the limitations of original Claim 21. Therefore, Claims 2-12, 18-20, and 22-27 are in condition for allowance.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), Applicant petitions the Commissioner to extend the time for responding to the August 21, 2003, Office Action for three months from November 21, 2003, to February 21, 2004. Applicant encloses herewith a check in the amount of \$950 made payable to the Director of the USPTO for the petition fee.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with the filing of this Response to Deposit Account 23-0035.

Respectfully submitted,



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ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

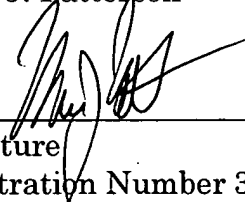
CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAILING

I hereby certify that this Response and Amendment and a check in the amount of \$950.00 payable to the Commissioner are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Mail Stop Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on February 19, 2004.

Mark J. Patterson



Signature
Registration Number 30,412

2/19/04

Date